

**Council on Postsecondary Education
Committee on Equal Opportunities
October 17, 2005**

SREB Compact for Faculty Diversity: Fall 2005 Scholars

The Southern Regional Education Board Doctoral Scholars program addresses the under-representation of minorities in higher education by encouraging ethnic minority students to pursue doctoral degrees and careers as college educators. The SREB, the New England Board of Higher Education, and the Western Interstate Commission established the program in 1994 as part of the Compact for Faculty Diversity, a national initiative funded by the Pew Charitable Trust and the Ford Foundation.

The Council on Postsecondary Education, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville jointly implement the program in Kentucky. An ethnic minority student who is a U.S. citizen (Native American, Hispanic, Asian American, or African American), holds or will receive a bachelor's or master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university, and has been accepted into a Ph.D. program at UK or UofL is eligible to apply for Kentucky's program. The specific areas of concentration supported by the program are science, mathematics, education (math or science), and engineering.

The program has proven to be an unqualified success. Currently, there are 27 students matriculating through the program; 14 are enrolled at the University of Kentucky and 13 at the University of Louisville. According to SREB, as of September 2005, the program has served 64 scholars in Kentucky. Twenty-eight Kentucky scholars have completed the Ph.D., one withdrew, two have transferred to programs in other states, and the rest are on schedule to complete the program. Six students are expected to earn their degree by May 2006. The retention rate for the program is almost 90 percent. The SREB Doctoral Scholars Program plans to graduate its 400TH scholar in spring 2006.

The 2005 scholars and their mentors will attend the Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Arlington, Virginia, October 27-30. Also, representatives of Eastern Kentucky University and Northern Kentucky University are invited to participate in the institute to recruit scholars who are completing their Ph.D. in 2005-06.